

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for printing a secure image on media using an inkjet printing device, the method comprising:
printing an underlayer using an inkjet printing device that penetrates into a front surface of media, the underlayer defining an identification indicia; and
printing a secure image on top of the underlayer using an inkjet printing device, wherein examination of a back surface opposite the front surface allows viewing of the identification indicia for authenticating the secure image.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the underlayer is printed using an ink color that is independent of ink color of the image to be printed.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the secure image completely covers the underlayer.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the inkjet printing device for printing the underlayer is the same inkjet printing device for printing the overlayer.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the underlayer is printed using one of magenta and cyan ink.
- 20 6. An inkjet printing device for secure printing comprising:
an input device for receiving image information for specifying images to be printed;
a storage device for storing identification indicia information; and
25 a control device for selecting between the input device and the storage device, wherein the control device selects information from each of the first input device and the storage device for each image printed.
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7. The inkjet printing device of claim 6 wherein the storage device is an electric storage device.
8. The inkjet printing device of claim 6 wherein for each secure image to be printed the control device first selects identification indicia information from the storage device to print an underlayer, then selects information from the input device to print an overlayer.
9. The inkjet printing device of claim 6 wherein the printing device is configured to print the underlayer using one of cyan and magenta ink colors.
10. A method identifying a source of an inkjet printed image, the method comprising:
printing an underlayer on a frontside of print media using an inkjet printing device, the underlayer having a characteristic indicia of the inkjet printing device; and
printing an image over the underlayer wherein the source of the printed image is determined by the examination of a backside opposite the front side to reveal a mirror image of the underlayer for identifying the characteristic indicia.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein the printing an image over the underlayer is accomplished with the inkjet printing device.
12. The method of claim 10 wherein the underlayer is formed using at least one of magenta and cyan inks.
13. The method of claim 10 wherein the inkjet printing device includes a storage device for storing information specifying the underlayer.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the inkjet printing device includes a control device for selecting image information from the storage device to first print the underlayer and then from an input device for printing the overlayer.

5 15. A method for printing a secure image on media using an inkjet printing device, the method comprising:

printing an underlayer using an inkjet printing device that penetrates into a front surface of media, the underlayer defining an identification indicia; and

printing a secure image on top of the underlayer using an inkjet printing device, wherein examination of a front surface allows viewing of the identification indicia for authenticating the secure image.

10 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the underlayer is formed from a series of small ink drops that are sufficiently small to prevent viewing with the naked eye.

15 17. The method of claim 15 wherein the underlayer is formed from a series of small ink drops that are sufficiently small to prevent viewing under normal light.